

## The Gun

### I

Last night we heard Robert Lowell  
read his poems  
in a slow Boston drawl.  
On my daughter's orders I carried  
a wooden toy gun,  
in case of dragons.  
I carried it  
in my inside coat pocket, all through the poems.

### II

Lowell read his poem about Lepke,  
and I had a gat, by God.

### III

In 1911  
Apollinaire was arrested  
on suspicion of stealing  
the Mona Lisa.

### IV

I am alone this morning,  
prowling our apartment for a poem,  
searching closets and pockets.  
I find a wooden gun.  
My wife is at the dentist,  
my daughter at Grandma's,  
I'm barefooted and armed —  
a second storey man in my own apartment.

### V

How do you live? she asked him  
at the end of that chain-gang movie,  
and the fugitive Paul Muni  
hissed as he disappeared,  
I steal!

— James Hazard

Oshkosh, Wisconsin